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ducting parties the best route to it; and soon a good smooth road is constructed, over which in crowds the workers are seen through the night, or in cool cloudy days, transporting the leaves to the city. This is their mode, invariably, in a country where the grass has been destroyed, and we can see and understand the method and the purpose for which they work. But in a country which is heavily coated with high grass, it is not so easy to discover by what process they lay off a tunnel and successfully carry it in a direct line to the selected tree or garden spot a quarter of a mile distant, and sometimes beyond a considerable streamlet of running water.

On one occasion, on a log that lay across the Ye Gua Creek, the ants passed over to a gentleman's garden and were rapidly cutting his vegetables to pieces. The owner hoping to rid the garden of these troublesome insects, cut the log away and it floated off down the creek. He was mistaken in his calculations, for it was but a few days after when the ants were ravaging the garden in as great numbers as they were previous to the removal of the log. After searching unsuccessfully for some interlocking tree that might afford them a passage, it was observed that the ants came out from several holes, situated on the creek side of the garden. Subsequently it was discovered that, on a large ant mound crowning a sandy point near the edge of some post-oak timber, two hundred yards from the creek, there were quantities of the black soil of the Ye Gua bottom thrown out, proving that the second visit of the ants to the gentleman's garden had been effected by a tunnel beneath the bed of the creek; the channel of the creek, at that place is fifteen or twenty feet deep, and from bank to bank on top of the bluff about thirty feet.

By what degree of the *instinctive* powers was all this engineering and truly great project accomplished.

I have never seen the cutting ants fighting among themselves, or with any of the other species. I look upon them as the most peaceable, the most sagacious, and at the same time the most destructive of the ant kind.

March 5th.

The President, DR. HAYS, in the Chair.

Thirty-six members present.

The following papers were presented for publication:

"On the Structure of *Lopezia*." By Thomas Meehan.

"Mammalogical Notices." By J. H. Slack, M. D.

March 12th.

MR. CASSIN, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Forty-two members present.

The death was announced of Prince Maximilian, of Wied, a Correspondent.

The following was presented for publication:

"The necessity of Nebular Rotation." By J. Ennis.

Prof. Cope exhibited the fossil skull of a large turtle, from a soft granular limestone belonging to the cretaceous formation of Barnsboro, Gloucester Co., N. J. It was characterized under the name of *Euclastes platyops*. The length of the skull is 11 inches; its breadth 8½ inches.

1867.]